

This record is a partial extract of the original cable. The full text of the original cable is not available.

UNCLAS VIENNA 002662

SIPDIS

SENSITIVE

STATE FOR S/WCI AMB PROSPER, EUR, EUR/PGI, AND EUR/AGS

E.O. 12958: N/A

TAGS: [KISL](#) [KPAO](#) [PGOV](#) [PREL](#) [AU](#)

SUBJECT: ENGAGING AUSTRIA ON GUANTANAMO DETAINEES

REF: STATE 142348

This message is sensitive but unclassified.

1. (SBU) Embassy Vienna has provided a non-paper based on reftel points to Austrian MFA State Secretary (Deputy Foreign Minister-equivalent) Hans Winkler. The Public Affairs Section will post this information to Embassy's public website. Charge will also present the material to Chancellor Schuessel's Chief of Staff, Martin Falb. Acting Econ/Pol Counselor will solicit reactions on August 10 from MFA Acting A/S-equivalent for the Americas. Embassy would welcome continuing updates on evolving U.S. detention policies, for example, on plans to repatriate more detainees to their countries of origin.

3. (SBU) While the issue of Guantanamo has faded from the headlines in Austria in recent months, there have been more recent press stories about renditions. One influential daily ran an article on August 5 on "ghost detainees." The larger Austrian public is presently inclined to accept such reports uncritically, viewing them as part of a larger pattern of alleged U.S. abuse of prisoners. We would therefore welcome any specific evidence we can cite, on an as-needed basis, to rebut future allegations of systematic abuse.
van Voorst